

VZCZCXRO7610
RR RUEHIK
DE RUEHRL #0162/01 0361434
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 051434Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6490
INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 000162

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR OES/ENRC - Lloyd Gamble

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [SENV](#) [KSCA](#) [CITES](#) [AORC](#) [UNEP](#) [GM](#)
SUBJECT: GERMAN RESPONSE TO CITES COP15 DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 6668

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¶1. This is an action request, please see paragraph 10.

¶2. (U) Summary. On January 27, Econoff conveyed reftel points and non-paper on U.S. proposals for the upcoming CITES COP15 to Gerhard Adams and Karoline Hess in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. On February 4, Mr. Adams conveyed German support for the U.S. coral, snake and polar bear proposals, but expressed concerns with the U.S. bobcat proposal. Germany is considering the U.S. shark proposal, but requests U.S. support for the EU shark proposal. Germany's positions ultimately will be in line with the common EU positions. End Summary.

¶3. (U) GERMAN DELEGATION TO CITES COP15

Dr. Elsa Nickel (Head of Delegation)
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Nature Conservation Division
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Responsible for issues of high political priority
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Gerhard Adams (Deputy Head of Delegation)
Section Head, Office of Species Conservation
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Responsible for all issues, especially those of high political priority, such as elephants
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Karoline Hess
Desk Officer, Office of Species Conservation
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Responsible for all issues, especially those of high political priority, including listing criteria and introduction from the sea

Frank Barsch
Desk Officer, Office of Species Conservation
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Responsible for tigers and other issues

Dr. Irina Sprotte
Head Advisor, Export and Import of Animals and Plants
(Enforcement of Species Protection)
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Responsible for implementation issues, including ranching, purpose codes and introduction from the sea

Dr. Uwe Schippmann
Head Advisor, Conservation of Botanical Species
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Responsible for botanical issues

Michael Mller-Boge
Head Advisor for Legal Issues (Enforcement of Species
Protection)
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Responsible for implementation issues such as electronic
permitting

Franz BQhmer
Deputy Head Advisor for Legal Issues (Enforcement of Species
Protection)
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Responsible for enforcement issues

Harald Martens
Desk Officer, Conservation of Zoological Species
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Responsible for zoological issues, including sharks, bluefin
tuna, corals and polar bears

Ulrich Schepp
Desk Officer, Conservation of Zoological Species
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Responsible for zoological issues, including snake trade and
bobcats

Hans-Josef Schmitz-Kretschmer
Desk Officer, Conservation of Botanical Species
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Responsible for botanical issues, including tropical timber

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Christian Stang
Administrative Assistant
Nordrhein-Westfalen Ministry for Environment, Nature
Conservation, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
Responsible for financial issues

Dr. Ingo Strmer
Advisor to the German delegation on sharks

Petra Deimer
Advisor to the German delegation on various issues

Dr. Sarah Fowler
Advisor to the German delegation on sharks

Sharks: Germany Proposes Mutual Support

14. (U) Germany is considering the U.S. shark proposal, but
requests U.S. support for the EU shark proposal. The EU shark
proposal, which Germany initiated, proposes listing the
porbeagle (*lamna nasus*) and spiny dogfish (*squalus*
acanthias) in CITES Appendix II. The German government
believes that the U.S. will support the porbeagle proposal,
but has no clear information on the U.S. position on the spiny
dogfish proposal. In addition, Germany has proposed a joint
EU/U.S. side event on shark proposals during the COP15. They
have not yet received an answer from the U.S.

Corals

15. (U) Germany supports the U.S. coral proposal, as the EU is
a co-sponsor. Germany has doubts as to whether there is
sufficient scientific information to support the coral
proposal, but supports listing corals in Appendix II as a
precaution.

Polar Bears

¶16. (U) Germany supports the U.S. polar bear proposal, but requests additional information to defend the proposal within the EU. Germany questions if the trade in polar bear products and the threats to polar bear habitats truly fulfill the criteria to list polar bears in Appendix I.

Bobcats

¶17. (U) Germany does not support the U.S. proposal. Experts from the German Environment Ministry and German Customs Agency do not believe that they have adequate guidelines to distinguish lynx furs from bobcat furs. They have reviewed the proposed U.S. guidelines, but do not think they are sufficient, especially for furs without tails or ears. They suggested that other European countries agree with this assessment.

Snakes

¶18. (U) Germany supports the joint U.S./China proposal.

German Requests

¶19. (U) Germany requested U.S. assistance to reach agreement on document 27, "Introduction from the Sea" and document 63, "Criteria to Include Species in Appendices I and II." Germany supports the CITES secretariat's position on introduction from the sea and hopes to develop common procedures to handle marine species harvested in international waters. Germany believes that strengthening the criteria for including marine species in the CITES appendices to match those for including land species will prevent overexploitation of marine species.

Action Request

¶10. (U) Action Request. Post requests guidance on the U.S. position on the EU shark proposal, CITES document 27 and document 63. In addition, Post requests guidance on the German proposal for joint EU/U.S. shark event at the COP15.

MURPHY